Mr. Belin. All right. Now, as you turned north on Houston, do you remember about how fast you were going?

Mr. Couch. Well, I'd say still that - of course, allowing for the turn - that the pace of the motorcade was about the same. We were clipping along and, as I said, I do have films after we had turned the other corner, and you could still see that the motorcade was moving fairly fast. (6H155)

Mr. Belin. All right. Then what happened after Bob Jackson made his exclamation and you saw what you just related?

Mr. Couch. Well, I picked up my camera. As I recall, I had it in my hand, but it was down leaning against my legs. And I picked it up and made a quick glance at a setting and raised it to my eye. And - uh - you can see from my film that we're just turning the corner. We start the turn and we turn the corner, and you can see people running. As I recall, there's a quick glance at the front entrance of the Texas Depository Book Building. You can see people running and you can see about the first three cars, maybe four, in front of me as we complete the turn. And then I took pictures of - uh - a few people on my left and a group, or a sweeping, of the crowd on my right standing on the corner.

Mr. Belin. Did you take any pictures of the School Book Depository Building itself?

Mr. Couch. Not of the south side at that moment. After we went, say, 50 to 75 feet on down Elm, uh - we began to hang on because the driver picked up speed. We got down under the - I think there's three trestles there, three crossings underneath the - uh - at the very bottom of Elm Street --

Mr. Belin. Is that what they call the triple-underpass?

Mr. Couch. Right. And - uh - I think, as I recall, right after we'd made the turn on Elm, one or two of the fellows jumped out. But after we got all the way down underneath the three trestles we finally persuaded the driver - who wasn't two anxious to stop - to stop and - uh - we all jumped out. And I ran, I guess it was about 75 yards or a little more back up to the School Depository Building and took some sweeping pictures of the crowd standing around. I didn't stay there long.

Mr. Belin. Did you take any pictures of the Depository Building entrance?

Mr. Couch. No - uh -

Mr. Belin. When you came back up there?

Mr. Couch. Not with determination. I cannot recall at this moment whether some of my pictures I took when I ran back might have a sweeping shot of the entrance through a wide angle lens. But not with determination. I didn't plan to take pictures of it.

Mr. Belin. Would these shots - these wide angle lens shots, if anyone were standing in front of the building or leaving the building at that time, would you be able to identify them, or would they be too far away?

Mr. Couch. They would be too far away. Possibly if the frames were blown up, one might determine if someone was standing there - identify someone.

Mr. Belin. About how many minutes after the last shot would

you say you came back to take these pictures?

Mr. Couch. Well, I'd say it took me - uh - maybe a minute and a half to get back to there after this third shot - because we weren't but seconds getting down underneath that underpass ~~tha~~ after we made the turn.

Mr. Belin. Uh-huh.

Mr. Couch. And - uh - I jumped out and ran back. So, I'd say not over a minute and a half.

Mr. Belin. And then you started taking general sweeping shots of the area?

Mr. Couch. Right.

Mr. Belin. Were most of the shots directed at people along the side there as to what their reactions were, or were most of the shots directed at the School Book Depository Building?

Mr. Couch. Mostly of the people standing around, the policemen and shots such as this.

Mr. Belin. In what direction, generally, would the camera have been pointed, and where would you have been standing when you took these pictures?

Mr. Couch. Some of the pictures, I remember, the camera was pointing south - because I was standing on the little knoll which is just at the foot and west of the Depository Building, where the littl park area begins. There's a sidewalk that runs between the Book Depository property, I would assume and the park. And I was standing on that little sidewalk.

Mr. Belin. And your camera was pointing south?

Mr. Couch. Pointing south. That's right. Now, after I had taken I don't know how ~~many~~ many feet of film of people standing around, I - uh - we - I think there was one or two other fellows with me and who they were, now, I can't remember; they were photographers - we stopped a car that was going by with a boy in it - A YOUNG Boy pf about ~~jwgx~~ high school age - and asked him to take us out to Parkland. And as the car started off, I started my camera and I have a sweeping shot moving west from about - uh - maybe the middle of the Book Depository Building from ground level on past the park area - a sweeping shot with the car moving.

Mr. Belin. And that's about it insofar as the School Book Depository Building is concerned?

Mr. Couch. Well, no. After we got out to Stemmons - they'd set up a roadblock just as you entered Stemmons Expressway.

Mr. Belin. Uh-huh.

Mr. Couch. We jumped out of the car and I took, I believe it was, a 2-inch lens shot of the Book Depository Building of the west wall.

Mr. Belin. Of o the west wall?

Mr. Couch. Yes.

Mr. Belin. Not of the front entrance?

Mr. Couch. No.

Mr. Belin. Is there any particular reason, Mr. Couch, why you didn't take your first pictures of the Svhool Book Depository Building itself when you say you saw a rifle being withdrawn?

Mr. Couch. Well, uh - as best I can recall, the excitement on the ground of people running and policemen "revving" up their motorcycles - and I have a real nice shot of a policeman running toward me with his pistol drawn - the activity on the ground kept my attention. The reason I did not stay and take pictures of the Depository Building - which I had originally intended to do when I got out of the motorcade - was that - uh - another cameraman from our station, A. J. L'Hoste - L-'-H-o-s-t-e - he came running up and-

uh - when he ran up, why I said, "You stay here and get shots of the building and go inside - and I'm going to go back - I'm going to follow the President."

Mr. Belin. All right. Was he also a moving picture cameraman?

Mr. Couch. Yes; right.

Mr. Belin. Where was he at the time you made this statement?

Mr. Couch. Uh - he was standing on that little sidewalk that runs between the - I met him on the little sidewalk between the Book Depository property and the beginning of the parkway.

Mr. Belin. That would be the west side of the Depository Building?

Mr. Couch. That's right; that's right. It's there that I saw the blood on the sidewalk.

Mr. Belin. All right. Now, you say you saw blood on the sidewalk, Mr. Couch?

Mr. Couch. That's right.

Mr. Belin. Where was that?

Mr. Couch. This was the little walkway - steps and walkway that leads up to the corner, the west corner, the southwest corner of the Book Depoistory Building. Another little sidewalk, as I recall, turns west and forms that little parkway and archway right next to the Book Depository Building.

Mr. Belin. Did this appear to be freshly created blood?

Mr. Couch. Yes; right.

Mr. Belin. About how large was this spot of blood that you saw?

Mr. Couch. Uh - from 8 to 10 inches in diameter.

Mr. Belin. Did people around there say how it happened to get there, or not?

Mr. Couch. No; no one knew. People were watching it - that is, watching it carefully and walking around it and pointing to it. Uh,- just as I ran up, policemen ran around the west corner and ran - uh - northward on the side of the building. And my first impression was that - uh - that they had chased someone out of the building around that corner, or possibly they had wounded someone. All the policemen had their pistols pulled. And people were pointing back around those shrubs around that west corner and - uh - you would think that there was a chase going on in that direct. Again, the reason that I didn' follow was because A. J. had come up, and my first concern was to get back with the President.

Mr. Belin. This pool of blood - about how far would it have been north of the curbline of Elm Street as Elm Street goes to the expressway?

Mr. Counch. I'd say - uh - well, from Elm Street, you mean, itself?

Mr. Belin. Yes. This is from that part of Elm Street that goes into the expressway?

Mr. Couch. I'd say - uh - 50 to 60 feet, and about 15 feet or 10 to 15 feet from the corner of the Texas Depository Building.

Mr. Belin. It would have been somewhere along that park area there?

Mr. Couch. Right.

Mr. Belin. Was there anything else you noticed by this pool of blood?

Mr. Couch. No. There were no objects on the ground. We looked for something. We thought there would be something else, but -

Mr. Belin. There was nothing?

Mr. Couch. Huh-uh.

Mr. Belin. Now, this A. J. - ?

Mr. Couch. L'Hoste. That's "L" apostrophe.

Mr. Belin. Yes; I have that. I have made a note of the spelling, along with the phonetic sound. Do you know if he got any pictures of the south side of the School Book Depository?

Mr. Couch. No; I don't recall what he got - as I recall - now, I may be wrong, this is a guess - that he did not take any pictures.

Mr. Belin. He did not take any?

Mr. Couch. No.

Mr. Belin. Do you know of anyone that took any pictures of the south side of the School Book Depository Building, particularly the front entrance of the building, shortly after the assassination?

Mr. Couch. No; only what I have seen in Time magazine.

Mr. Belin. Only what you've seen in Time magazine?

Mr. Couch. Right.

(¢6H158-60)